

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

The steamship *Foong Suey*, Capt. Hilldrath, from New Orleans July 21, at 8 a.m., with men, and passengers to W. H. Reuben, arrived yesterday. The ship *Arago* arrived on the 19th. Passed to the river, bound up, steamship *Yankee*, hence. On the 22d inst., 175 miles S. E. of the Barataria, saw steamship *Washington*, hence for New Orleans. Off Sombrero Key lighted, broke the piston rod of the pump, which took 36 hours to repair. On the 27th saw a side-wheel steamer in chase of a blockade-runner, but the chase was soon given up. On the same day was boarded by U. S. gunboat *Quaker City*, cruising, all well. On the 29th the piston rod broke again, which took five hours to repair.

TROOPS SENT EASTWARD FROM NEW-ORLEANS
—CONTENDED ATTACK ON MOBILE
RAGGED AND HUNGRY STATE OF LOUISIANA
REBELS—BANKS REPORTED BELIEVED.

From Our Special Correspondent.

NEW ORLEANS, July 21, 1864.

It can no longer be considered as a secret that a large number of troops have been sent from this Department to the aid of Gen. Grant, as we are already in receipt of intelligence here that a part of them have arrived and are to assist in the defense of Baltimore; nor can it be esteemed a secret that others have gone to Sherman's assistance, as Smith's movement has been a matter of newspaper notoriety for weeks.

It may not, however, be so well known that an attack on Mobile was for a time seriously considered, even though Gen. Canby, in his Report in this Department, says that such was the case, but they also asserted that nearly every other point in striking distance from here was the object of attack. For instance, I have, in one day, in this city, heard it asserted by Secession sympathizers that an expedition was fitting out to proceed to Texas; that the second Red River expedition was preparing; that Canby was going to send a heavy force to Blitzen Head, destined for Charleston; that more was to be made to oppose the movement via Jackson, Miss., and that the destination of the troops known to be proceeding for the south was to reinforce Gen. Sterling Price. The only thing they did not think of was Grant; and Gen. Canby is deserving of the highest praise for the extraordinary secrecy with which he managed to veil his movements, not only before the expedition sailed, but even after a part of the forces had been sent away.

It was, for three or four days after the first transports had left the mouth of the river, believed by many that the move was intended to strike Mobile, and I have indisputable evidence now that a secret connection existed in that regard, that many of the citizens fled from it in the fear of an attack by our forces.

To tell the truth, Gen. Canby was well advised of the defensibility of the city, and must have been sorely tempted by a sudden dash, to have possessed himself of the place according to the original programme, but realizing the greater importance, in the general result, of aiding Grant to achieve success in Virginia, rather than to perform a bold movement in the recesses of which must have recompensed, to his individual credit, he waived the carrying out of his own well calculated plans and set aside his forces where they were more needed.

How hard it must have been to forego the opportunity of accomplishing a certain success will be better appreciated when it is known that Mobile was almost entirely stripped of troops for its defense, and beyond the lawless exemptions from the merciless conscription, and the frenzies who are under military organization, had hardly a regiment to man the fortifications.

The ram Tennessee, of which I have written before spoken, is, it is true, still lying off about the harbor, but the increasing statement as to her speed, or rather lack of it, is verified by observation of our fleet, and she is really known to possess the ability to move at a rate not exceeding three miles and a half per hour.

Wheeler's cavalry routed the enemy in the neighborhood of Decatur, capturing his camp. Our loss is not fully ascertained. Major Gen. Walker, killed; Brig. Gen. Smith, Gist and Mercer wounded. Prisoners reported McPherson killed. Our troops fought with great gallantry.

EXCITEMENT IN RICHMOND.
From the Richmond Courier, July 25.

The news of the victory at Atlanta, which the telegraph brought to Richmond on last Saturday, delighted the public at the time, but has been received during the week. It caused a general stir throughout the country, and will earn the same to all quarters of the country. Gen. Lee has signified his acceptance of the command of the Army of the Tennessee with a brilliant victory, and justified his selection by success, the highest evidence of his propriety.

The tide has turned, the army has faced about, and the strategy of advance takes the place of that of retreat. The initiative of attack has at last been taken by our army, and the prestige and morale wrested from the enemy. Gen. Hood has turned upon the enemy, and has gained the confidence of the President. He has fought a battle within the first week of his command, and won an important victory. Of the competence of this victory, at the time of writing, nothing is known; but the army is now, notwithstanding its losses, much stronger than before it measured its strength with the adversary. The attack was made, but not received; the enemy were driven not repulsed. These terms are new to be applied to the battles of the Army of Tennessee.

Light brightens upon the only dark point in our line, Atlanta may yet be safe, and Georgia will soon be free from the foe. The central army of the Confederacy has recovered its prestige, and defeated the evident enemy.

OPERATIONS BEFORE PETERSBURG — GRANT COMMENCING A STRATEGIC POLICY — HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRING.

ATLANTA, July 22—104 p. m.—The Hon. Secretary of War: The army left night, and Stewart's and Cheatham's corps formed line of battle around the city. Peachtree Creek last night, and Stewart's and Cheatham's corps formed line of battle around the city. The ram Tennessee, of which I have written before spoken, is, it is true, still lying off about the harbor, but the increasing statement as to her speed, or rather lack of it, is verified by observation of our fleet, and she is really known to possess the ability to move at a rate not exceeding three miles and a half per hour.

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DURING Saturday, nothing of interest transpired in or about the "Cockade" city. Important movements began on Thursday by the enemy, were promptly discovered by our army, and appropriate steps were taken to anticipate them. Grant is evidently commencing a strategic policy, but, as he is about as much overmatched by the able General in his front, in that peculiar line of movements, as he has been hitherto in the mode of assault direct, we have no apprehensions on that point.

On Saturday night our batteries opened heavily upon the enemy, and the report of the explosion of their gunpowder was heard in every quarter of the city, although when I last heard from him the powder had not been extracted, which, though very small, may, unless extracted, do mischief. The Yankees are believed to have erected a new and powerful battery somewhere near to Rives' farm.

THE BOUNTY OF \$300.—The Bounty Committee of the King's County Board of Supervisors last week gave notice that after August 1 the bounty would be reduced to \$100. Yesterday they came to the conclusion to retain the present amount (\$300) which sum will hereafter be paid to substitutes, the same as heretofore.

THE DROWNING CASES AT CONEY ISLAND.

Three men were drowned at Coney Island while bathing. They were identified, namely, Chas. A. Ames, aged 22, drug clerk in the store of James Clark, corner of Myrtle avenue and Bridge street. He was another extreme point, while between them they calculated that the river would be cleared of gunboats long enough to allow them to cross.

The severity with which they were cleared away, however, disappointed them at the time, and we are likely to do so again if they make another attempt of the kind.

One of Gen. Canby's aids has lately returned from Little Rock, and reports matters in Arkansas much less serious than rumor had led us to fear. Gen. Steele is strongly entrenched, has force enough to maintain his position, and has supplies sufficient, even if the Rebels succeed in cutting his communication, to hold on against the Rebel force likely to be brought against him.

It is certain that the want of supplies which I named as causing the Rebel forces in West Louisiana is equally hindering the operations of Price and Marcellus in Arkansas, and they have the utmost difficulty in keeping their forces together in an effective condition.

Here in this city there is undoubtedly some gloom cast at the news which reaches us from Baltimore and Washington; and though we cannot believe that anything other than success to the Union army will finally result from the present move, it causes, nevertheless, very grave apprehension until this uncertainty is removed.

There is feverishness among the Secessionists of this city, and it is observable that the patrol on duty here is less rigorous for the last day or two.

It is stated on the best authority that Gen. Banks was relieved from his command yesterday, and rumor assigns both Greener and Duff to his vacant place.

Gen. Davis went North 10 or 12 days since, and has not returned.

If rumor was not so positive in confining the selection of a successor to Banks to the two generals named above, I should feel warranted in saying that Gen. Danville would receive the mantle of the slaughtered Bullion.

Whoever may be the successor, however, it may truthfully be said that the change has not come too soon, as the harmony which is necessary to the success of great military movements had not existed between Gen. Canby and Banks for some time past. In fact, a big row came near breaking out a month since, but was for the time smoothed. There has, however, been mutterings to the effect that headquarters are ever since, to those whose ears were sensitive enough to catch, and sounds arise.

DISMISSES CONFIRMED.

The orders of dismissal heretofore issued in the following cases have been confirmed:

Maj. Henry Rossell, 15th New-York Cavalry, to date May 21, 1864, for having grossly neglected his duty.

Major Frank B. Bonsai, 28th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Capt. J. H. Goldsmith, 29th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

First Lieut. Charles W. Chapman, 29th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

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